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General and complete disarmament

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

Report of the Secretary General

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I. Introduction

1. In resolution 68/56 of 5 December 2013, the General Assembly decided to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels and requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 25 February 2014, the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States requesting their views on the subject. At the time of writing of the present report, 11 replies had been received from Member States. Those replies are reproduced in section II below. Subsequent replies will be issued as an addendum.

II. Replies received from Member States

Azerbaijan

[Original: English]
[29 April 2014]

Conventional arms control regimes are important instruments for ensuring stability, mutual trust, predictability and transparency in the military sphere at various levels. Such regimes require a high degree of commitment by States parties to their underlying principles and strict adherence to the norms and principles of international law.

Azerbaijan is a signatory of the 1992 Tashkent Agreement on the Principles and Procedures for the Implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe. Although Azerbaijan has not ratified the Agreement, it has been voluntarily applying and observing the provisions of the Treaty. Within the terms of the Treaty and the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-building Measures of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Azerbaijan adheres to transparency measures by participating in regular information and notification exchanges and receiving inspections. Azerbaijan is actively engaged in the discussions on the future of the conventional arms control regime in Europe.

The continued occupation by Armenia of the Daghlyq Garabagh (Nagorno-Karabakh) region and seven surrounding districts of Azerbaijan is a serious obstacle to the full implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Forces and the Vienna Document 2011. Armenia is in breach of the fundamental principles of the Treaty, including the obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and the "host nation consent", for which the Treaty provides that no State party can station conventional armed forces on the territory of another State party without the agreement of that State party.

For decades Armenia has continued its military build-up and regularly conducts large-scale military exercises in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Overall, Armenia is the most militarized country of the South Caucasus. The cumulative quantity of Armenian declared and undeclared equipment limited by the Treaty which is stationed within its territory and in the occupied territories of

Azerbaijan has far exceeded the ceilings allowed under the Treaty. Despite the findings of various international inspections, including those carried out in 2012 and 2013, of significant arms procurement by Armenia, that State has not declared any increase in holdings for years.

Armenia must immediately withdraw its armed forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan, respect the latter's territorial integrity and constructively engage in negotiations on the settlement of the conflict, thus paving the way for the achievement of lasting peace, security and stability and the establishment of an effective arms control regime in the region.

Plurinational State of Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]
[9 April 2014]

Given that the international community has set a goal of reducing the number of weapons in the world, the issue of conventional arms is a global matter. A surge in the number of conventional arms affects the development of every country and hampers the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including the goal of poverty reduction.

Global expenditure on conventional weapons represents 5.4 per cent of global gross domestic product; the trade in small arms and conventional weapons is among the least transparent and the least regulated. In that regard, Governments are developing policies to reduce the number of conventional weapons so as to increase support in the areas of health and education.

The murders committed with conventional arms in the region and subregion account for one of the highest rates of violence in the world, while the illicit trade in arms has become one of the most profitable businesses, in particular in the region.

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels is of the utmost importance, in particular to maintain peace and security at the national and international level. Measures and actions agreed under bilateral and multilateral agreements must therefore be taken in order to eradicate this threat.

The preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States involved the arms race at the lowest level will help maintain a zone of peace and stability, free from threats and danger.

The arms race, which primarily involves countries with greater military capabilities, poses a threat to the region and subregion, underscoring the importance of implementing agreements to prevent attacks of various types and scope.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[14 May 2014]

On 18 and 19 February 2014, the ninth meeting of the Executive Board of the South American Defence Council was held in Paramaribo, Republic of Suriname. The methodological study on enhancing the transparency of the military inventory

of South American States and the final report on the methodology to enhance the transparency of military inventories were approved at the meeting.

In addition, it was agreed that the first report, under the technical responsibility of the Centre for Strategic Studies in Defence, would be submitted to the South American registry of military inventories by 31 July 2014, thus launching arms control at the regional and subregional levels, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/56.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[30 April 2014]

Arms control based on strict respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including equal rights, the right of peoples to self-determination, the right to self-defence, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, is critical to the promotion of peace and regional and international security.

In a truly historic moment, as part of an initiative to strengthen regional peace and security, on 29 January 2014, at the second summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana, Latin America and the Caribbean was formally declared a zone of peace.

In the proclamation, all Latin American and Caribbean States agreed to banish war and the threat and use of force in the region and to endeavour to resolve differences between States by peaceful means and in line with international law. The proclamation also sets out the firm commitment of States in the region to promote nuclear disarmament as a priority and to general and complete disarmament in order to strengthen confidence among nations.

Cuba, which has never possessed, does not possess and has no intention of ever possessing weapons of mass destruction of any kind, has only the sufficient number of conventional arms to ensure its national security; these are controlled by the appropriate State organs.

In regions where there are tensions, a major goal of conventional arms control measures should be to stem the potential for surprise military attacks and prevent external attacks.

In many regions, an obstacle to the control of conventional arms is the relative ease with which such arms can be acquired in countries where their sale is not strictly regulated, the authorization of exports and imports lacks rigour, or the national protection and control of arsenals is inadequate.

Efforts to promote regional and subregional agreements on conventional arms control must take into consideration the voluntary nature of the involvement of the parties concerned and the need to respect international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. States with larger military capabilities have a special responsibility to facilitate such agreements for the sake of regional security.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[7 May 2014]

In the case of Georgia, the issue of conventional arms control at the regional level is regulated by the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-building Measures, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Treaty on Open Skies. At the subregional level, Georgia participates in activities conducted under the 2002 Document on confidence- and security-building measures in the military and naval fields in the Black Sea (see A/57/82).

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[3 June 2014]

Mexico considers conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels to be critical to building confidence and preventing conflicts among States.

In its conventional arms control activities at the regional and subregional levels, Mexico has always adhered to national legislation and to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), promoting the implementation of confidence-building measures and the fulfilment of related obligations as a means of fostering transparency and the exchange of information in the region.

Moreover, Mexico recognizes the importance of maintaining the defence capabilities of States at the lowest possible level of armaments as a means of supporting regional and international peace and security.

Activities at the national level

The Mexican Army and Air Force contribute to conventional arms control by implementing the Federal Firearms and Explosives Act.

Pursuant to the Act, the Government aims to strengthen measures on the illicit trade in firearms by maintaining a national registry and regulating arms control activities in coordination with the relevant federal agencies. It has also brought national legislation into line with its international commitments.

The national legislation sets out the legitimate uses for each type of conventional arm and distinguishes weapons that are for the exclusive use of the armed forces from weapons authorized for civilian use, including weapons used for public and private security, sporting and hunting activities and home defence.

The armed forces are deployed in operations along the country's borders and contribute to conventional arms control by implementing the Federal Firearms and Explosives Act, guaranteeing the safety of residents in the area and stemming the flow of arms into the country.

The Ministry of Defence, in coordination with the three tiers of Government, continues to implement the weapons exchange programme as a strategy to counter trafficking in and illegal possession of small arms. The programme encourages civilians to voluntarily surrender weapons in their possession in exchange for a

reward in the form of cash, basic foodstuffs or household appliances. From 1 January to 31 December 2013, 30,993 firearms, 2,297 grenades and 778,546 cartridges were surrendered.

To complement the weapons exchange programme, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior have embarked on arms registration campaigns with the aim of regularizing and maintaining strict control of weapons, in accordance with the Federal Firearms and Explosives Act, through the use of an accurate and reliable database. Agencies in the justice system use the database as a tool to trace weapons that are linked to criminal activity and were brought into the country legally and to monitor and ensure that every weapon that enters the country bears the marks of the importer and the exporter in order to more easily identify the origin and destination.

In this regard, from 1 January to 31 December 2013, 9,474 firearms, 1,203 grenades and 1,292,711 cartridges were seized.

The control of legal weapons in Mexico is divided into two categories:

(a) First, information is collected on conventional weapons used by the armed forces, including details on their operational state, storage, maintenance, legal status or planned destruction. That control measure is carried out on a continuous basis in order to take full stock of all weapons, from the moment of their manufacture, purchase or transfer, and to maintain records, even after the weapons are destroyed;

(b) The second category covers legal weapons for use in sport and hunting, and for public or private security purposes; those are also subject to the control measures established for conventional arms used by the armed forces.

The procurement of weapons for public and private security entities is conducted exclusively through the Ministry of Defence, in line with the relevant provisions of federal law.

For its part, the Ministry of the Navy, through its intelligence agencies, maintains various national and international channels for the exchange of information, including with States in the region with which Mexico shares common interests, in order to counter the activities of criminal organizations, including crimes such as conventional arms trafficking.

The Ministry of the Navy also operates joint response centres for maritime and port incidents at the major ports. The centres screen goods that enter and leave the country, pursuant to national legislation and the relevant international legal instruments (conventions, codes and treaties). In addition, the Ministry of the Navy conducts inspections at sea, in line with national and international legislation, in order to maintain the rule of law in Mexico's maritime zones and prevent illicit activities, such as arms trafficking.

The National Security Commission promotes the exchange of information, experiences and practices in order to support the consolidation of networks and investigations into illicit trafficking in firearms. It also works in coordination with other agencies to prosecute this activity.

Within its competence, the Commission organizes meetings between the authorities responsible for countering arms trafficking in order to discuss the

conduct of studies that will help identify, inter alia, new trafficking routes and/or trends. In that regard, the Commission is responsible for reviewing the coordinating mechanisms in order to build a database of information on weapons seizures.

The Commission has implemented training programmes on identifying arms and has trained trainers on this topic. It has also conducted public awareness campaigns against arms trafficking and has participated in coordinated operations, in particular on explosives.

Activities at the regional and subregional level

Organization of American States

Mexico participates in the meetings on the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, which was opened for signature in 1999 and entered into force in 2002. Its objective is to promote the exchange of information relating to the production, purchase and sale of conventional arms among States in the hemisphere through periodic reporting mechanisms.

Mexico signed the Convention in 1999 and deposited its instrument of ratification with OAS on 7 March 2011, thus becoming a State party to all inter-American instruments on security. Although Mexico did not become a State party to the Convention until 2011, the Government has always sent OAS a copy of its reports on conventional arms that have been submitted to the United Nations.

United Nations

Countering illicit arms trafficking is a major priority of Mexico's foreign policy and constitutes one of the most critical aspects of the national strategy on security and organized crime. Mexico has therefore promoted the strengthening of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects since its establishment in 2001 and has actively worked to implement the Programme in order to strengthen controls to prevent and combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons at the national, regional and global level.

In addition, in order to promote transparency and confidence-building, Mexico submits national reports to the Secretary-General, in line with various General Assembly resolutions on conventional arms.

Arms Trade Treaty

Mexico actively participated in the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, held in New York from 18 to 28 March 2013, which sought to create a robust instrument that meets high international standards.

As a result of the efforts of Mexico and the international community, on 2 April 2013, the Arms Trade Treaty was adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 67/234 B. The resolution was supported and co-sponsored by Mexico.

The Government of Mexico believes that the adoption of this important treaty is an historic achievement, as it represents the first global effort to regulate the trade in conventional arms and establish a legal framework for accountability and transparency in the international transfer of those weapons.

In this regard, Mexico signed the Arms Trade Treaty on 3 June 2013 and deposited its instrument of ratification on 25 September 2013, the same date on which it declared its provisional implementation of articles 6 and 7.

In line with its commitment to the Treaty, Mexico has expressed its intention to host the first conference of States parties to the treaty, upon its entry into force, and to actively participate in the development of institutions and procedures with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the regime established through the Treaty and achieving results on the ground in the near future.

United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime

Mexico has been a State party to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime since April 2003. The Protocol entered into force in July 2005 and to date has 109 States parties.

Mexico has helped to promote universal adherence to the Protocol by co-sponsoring General Assembly resolution 68/193 on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, which sets out serious concerns at the negative effects of smuggling of small arms and light weapons on the development, peace and security of States. The Assembly also urged Member States to develop adequate national and regional strategies and implement mechanisms for cooperation with the United Nations system in order to address transnational organized crime effectively, including the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms.

In the resolution the General Assembly also urged the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in combating illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and to support their implementation of national and subregional strategies to address organized crime.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[14 May 2014]

Panama has supported the initiative by signing the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. It has also signed the Code of Conduct of Central American States on the Transfer of Arms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materiel, which sets out, inter alia, confidence-building measures among States in the region. In addition, the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations has actively participated in the First Committee of the General Assembly, which is exclusively concerned with disarmament and international security matters.

The Government of Panama is committed to implementing regional agreements aimed at creating regional and subregional legal instruments for States to jointly exercise strict controls in matters relating to conventional arms.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[14 May 2014]

The General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth session, in its consideration of the item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels", recognized the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security, highlighting the initiatives taken in different regions of the world in this matter.

Member States recognized that conventional arms control must be undertaken first in the regional and subregional context, as many of the threats to peace and security, in the post-cold-war era, came from States situated in the same regions or subregions. The General Assembly recognized, in particular, the relevance of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

Portugal applies legislation and procedures regarding military goods and procedures regarding arms control as described below.

Export controls on military products

All items on the European Common Military List and the Wassenaar Munitions List, under the title "conventional arms", are subject to export controls. Imports and exports are subject to a licence issued by the Ministry of Defence, which is the Portuguese licensing authority for military products.

Transit of the items in the aforementioned lists is also regulated. A permit must be obtained from the licensing authority.

All applications are considered by the Ministry of Defence on a case-by-case evaluation, based on an overall assessment. Each application is also considered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the light of foreign policy interests. Accordingly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs checks every import and export request against the criteria enshrined in European Union Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, of 8 December 2008, which is legally binding for all European Union member States. Briefly, those minimum standard criteria include:

(a) Respect for the international commitments of Member States, in particular restrictive measures established by the Security Council or the European Union, agreements on non-proliferation and other subjects, as well as other international obligations;

(b) Respect for human rights in the country of final destination as well as respect by that country of international humanitarian law;

(c) The internal situation in the country of final destination, as a function of the existence of tensions or armed conflicts;

(d) Preservation of regional peace, security and stability;

(e) National security of the Member State and of territories whose external relations are the responsibility of a Member State, as well as that of friendly and allied countries;

(f) Behaviour of the buyer country with regard to the international community, in particular its attitude to terrorism, the nature of its alliances and respect for international law;

(g) Existence of a risk that the equipment will be diverted within the buyer country or re-exported under undesirable conditions;

(h) Compatibility of the arms exports in question with the technical and economic capacity of the recipient country, taking into account the desirability that States should achieve their legitimate security and defence needs with the least diversion of human and economic resources for armaments.

Furthermore, import and export licences are not granted if they are in contravention of United Nations, European Union or OSCE embargoes. For small arms and light weapons, the Wassenaar Arrangement guidelines adopted in 2002 are also applied.

The necessary documentation for obtaining an export licence depends, inter alia, on the exporter and the recipient, the importing country, the quantity of weapons and the intended use. The documentation required includes an import licence or an international import certificate from the competent authorities in the importing country. For military equipment, an end-user certificate with a non-re-export clause is also required.

Regulation of brokering activities

Portugal has implemented directives 2009/43/EC of the European Parliament and Council, dated 6 May 2009 and 2010/80/EU, amending directive 2009/43, from the European Commission, dated 22 November 2010, through the internal Law 37/2011, dated 22 June 2011, which defines the rules and procedures for simplifying control over the international traffic of defence-related products. At the same time, Portugal applies the criteria contained in Common Position 2008/944/CFSP on control of the export of military arms and technologies and Law 49/2009, dated 5 August 2009, which regulates the conditions of commerce and industry of military goods and technologies.

A licence for a specific brokering transaction must be obtained from the Ministry of Defence and, where required by national legislation, also from the authorities with jurisdiction over the place of residence or establishment of the broker. Records of all persons and entities which have obtained such a brokering licence must be kept for a minimum of 15 years (as stipulated in article 32, 2 of Law 49/2009).

All brokers are required to register with the Minister of Defence. Brokers who have not been granted authorization are not allowed to conduct any brokering activities.

Serbia

[Original: English]
[8 May 2014]

The Republic of Serbia fulfils consistently all the obligations undertaken under international instruments in the field of arms control, including the Vienna

Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-building Measures, the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Proceeding from chapter X of the Vienna Document 2011 (Regional measures), Serbia has signed bilateral agreements in the field of arms control with Hungary and Bulgaria. Under those agreements, two activities on the territory of each country were carried out in 2013. During the activities in Bulgaria, an updated protocol between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria on strengthening confidence- and security-building measures complementing the Vienna Document 2011 was signed. At the same time, two activities were also carried out on the territory of Serbia.

All provisions of article IV of annex 1B (Measures for subregional arms control) of the Dayton Peace Agreement are fully complied with. In 2013, Serbia took part in five inspections carried out on the territories of the other parties to the Agreement, while they took part in five inspections carried out on the territory of Serbia. Nine inspections are scheduled for 2014, five on the territory of Serbia and four on the territories of the other parties to the Agreement. The transfer of ownership of the agreement on subregional arms control to the parties to the Agreement is under way. The activities are taking place according to schedule and the process is expected to be completed by the end of 2014. It is pointed out that this is the only agreement in the field of arms control that is complied with consistently and implemented in full.

The activities provided for by article V of annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Agreement are carried out on a regular basis by the verification centre of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and the verification centre of Germany. In 2013, one activity took place in Serbia, while two activities (one in Serbia and one in Germany) are scheduled for 2014.

The quantities of arms in the possession of the armed forces of Serbia are below the limit defined in article IV, annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Agreement and continue to decrease to the minimum level that meets the external and internal security needs of Serbia.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[5 May 2014]

The ultimate goal of an arms control regime should be to prevent conflict by reducing the risk of misunderstanding or miscalculation of the military activities of other countries; establish measures to impede covert military preparations; and reduce the risk of surprise attacks and of the outbreak of hostilities by accident. Disarmament measures should also seek to reduce any surplus in armaments and thus reduce the risk of proliferation.

Conventional arms control measures agreed upon may be legally or politically binding, but in any case should incorporate the following principles:

- Specificity: measures should be specifically negotiated for each case and each geographical area.
- Transparency: this should be based on the exchange of information and the establishment of regular contacts and free-flowing communication.
- Verifiability: the measures adopted should include a system for verifying their implementation.
- Reciprocity: the gains of each party in terms of a higher level of confidence should be matched by similar gains in the levels of confidence of the other parties.
- Progressivity: the measures should be seen as a process in which new and more effective measures are progressively developed as confidence between the parties improves.
- Complementarity: there should be ongoing efforts to ensure complementarity between the measures adopted at the global (United Nations), regional, subregional and bilateral levels and prevent the duplication of measures.

In addition, regional and subregional conventional arms control agreements should take into account the importance of:

- Establishing restrictions on the major categories of conventional arms systems and equipment.
- Compiling an arms inventory in the countries where such inventories do not yet exist and destroying any surplus stocks.
- Disseminating the objectives of pertinent forums to countries in the region that have not yet endorsed them and supporting universal adherence to agreements.
- Strictly enforcing the criteria for authorization of the export and import of arms by national authorities and strengthening the mechanisms for monitoring weapons manufacturers, suppliers, component assemblers and brokers.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[30 April 2014]

The relevance of conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels is confirmed by the aggressive actions of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

Ukraine remains consistently committed to the objectives of strengthening security for all, including through effective and verifiable arms control. As such, Ukraine welcomes all measures in the field of conventional arms, past, present and future.

Ukraine is a long-term responsible participant in pan-European, subregional and complementary bilateral confidence-building mechanisms relevant to arms control, such as the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, the Treaty on Open Skies and the OSCE Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-building Measures, as well as separate bilateral agreements on confidence- and security-building measures with neighbouring Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Belarus. On

10 March 2014, Ukraine signed an agreement on bilateral confidence- and security-building measures with Romania. Regrettably numerous proposals by Ukraine to enter into similar agreements with the Russian Federation were rejected by the Russian side under the pretext of a strategic partnership between the two countries, whose true nature was revealed by the occupation of the Crimea by the Russian Federation, the concentration of Russian armed forces along the Ukrainian border and subversive activities on the territory of Ukraine.

Sharing dissatisfaction with the ongoing impasse in conventional arms control in Europe, which occurred through the fault of the leadership of the Russian Federation, as well as with the slowdown in improvement in the confidence- and security-building measures of the Vienna Document 2011, during its chairmanship of OSCE in 2013, Ukraine initiated a discussion on the role that conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures can play in the creation of a modern, future security architecture in Europe.

The salient idea and the main goal of the Ukrainian initiative was and is to create a future-oriented strategic discussion on conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures without prejudging its outcome.

While the discussions have not yet provided a firm indication as to the concrete next steps, the Ukrainian initiative proved to be a timely undertaking and has already found support, including from the current OSCE chairmanship of Switzerland. In our opinion, future work towards this goal should be viewed in the context of related Russian activities.

Ukraine considers that confidence-building in the field of conventional arms:

- Offers, for a limited cost, a set of tools combining transparency through declaration, on-site verification and arms limitation, instead of devoting resources to gathering intelligence about the conventional capabilities of neighbouring countries.
- Is designated not only to control numbers of armaments and military equipment but also to reduce the risk of conflict by increasing trust among States and contributing to greater openness, predictability and transparency in the field of defence planning and military activities.
- Must include such classic time-tested tools as complete, accurate and timely exchange of relevant information and its on-the-spot verification, with the highest possible level of specification and sufficient intrusiveness, respectively, dependent on the level of trust among the participants in each time span, bearing in mind that what the participating States do not notify within the framework of information exchange cannot be verified.
- Should incorporate from the outset, or gradually thereafter, all measures worked out for the OSCE Vienna Document 2011, which as of today is exemplary in the area of confidence-building, and additional measures for the collective taming of aggression.
- Should first deal with the traditional categories of conventional armaments, bearing in mind the necessity to put new categories under control when the time comes.

- Should have as many participants as possible and accordingly cover as large an area as possible.
- Preferably be legally binding to be more obligatory. On the other hand, the overall experience of the OSCE Vienna Document 2011 has shown that a politically binding agreement can work.
- Should be periodically evaluated by the parties for viability, effectiveness and the possibility of further enhancement by way of modernization.

The assumption stated above is based on the following premises:

- The challenge for the international community is not just to identify the major threats and risks, but to define and adjust the role that appropriate arms control instruments can play in meeting them.
- The security of each participating State is inseparably linked to that of all the others. Each participating State has an equal right to security.
- Participants should maintain only those military capabilities that are commensurate with their legitimate individual or collective security needs.
- There should be no spheres of influence and no such thing as a "veto" vote when it comes to aggression.
- Limitations to and, where necessary, reductions in forces are an important element in the continuing search for security and stability at lower levels of forces. Other constraining provisions on armed forces and security-building measures must continue to be significant elements in the quest for stability.
- At all times it will be important to ensure complementarity between region-wide and subregional approaches. Regional arms control efforts should be based, inter alia, on specific military security issues.
- Specific issues, such as modernization of the existing framework versus the development of new mechanisms, identifying potential new elements in a new regime and updating existing instruments, are essential and must be dealt with when the time is right and within the appropriate format.
- Constant developments in military matters necessitate a fundamental modernization of conventional arms control.
- The strong commitment of the participating States to full implementation and further development of arms control agreements is essential for enhancing military and political stability within the respective areas. The positive trends of cooperation, transparency and predictability need to be gradually strengthened.

The approaches, assumptions and principles referred to above may enable interested parties to make progress in moving closer to peace and security throughout the area of application of confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms.

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General and complete disarmament

Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of new developments and the assistance accorded to Mongolia by the Secretariat and relevant United Nations bodies since the previous report on this subject (A/67/166) was issued in July 2012.

A major milestone was achieved on 17 September 2012 with parallel declarations by Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States, namely, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, regarding Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. During the period under review, Mongolia has continued to receive international recognition for its nuclear-weapon-free status and to promote other nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. It has continued to seek further institutionalization of its nuclear-weapon-free status.

The Government and people of Mongolia have received assistance from various United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

* A/69/50.

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I. Introduction

1. In resolution 67/52, entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status", the General Assembly invited Member States to continue to cooperate with Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, its independent foreign policy, its economic security and its ecological balance, as well as its nuclear-weapon-free status. The Assembly also appealed to the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region to support Mongolia's efforts to join the relevant regional security and economic arrangements. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide assistance to Mongolia in taking the aforementioned necessary measures and requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and is based on the information received to date concerning the implementation of the resolution from Mongolia, the Department of Political Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

II. Activities related to Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status

2. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General in July 2012 (A/67/166), a major milestone has been passed. On 17 September 2012, Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States, namely, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, met at United Nations Headquarters in New York and signed two parallel declarations on Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status (A/67/517-S/2012/760 and A/67/393-S/2012/721). On the occasion of the signing of the parallel declarations, Mongolia noted that they were the result of careful consultations and duly reflected the interests of all six States and the broader common interests of promoting the goals of nuclear non-proliferation and greater mutual trust and understanding. Mongolia further stated that the declarations bridged differences and laid the foundations of an agreed international arrangement regarding Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. Given its good-neighbourly relations with its two immediate neighbours, China and the Russian Federation, with which it did not have any territorial, border or other political dispute, Mongolia preferred but did not insist on a legally binding assurance from the five nuclear-weapon States. In their joint declaration, the five nuclear-weapon States affirmed their intent, as long as Mongolia maintains its nuclear-weapon-free status, to respect that status and not to contribute to any act that would violate it.

A. Activities regarding international recognition of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status

3. On 27 September 2012, the President of Mongolia, in his address to the general debate of the General Assembly, expressed appreciation to the five nuclear-

weapon States for signing the joint declaration reaffirming Mongolia's unique status and expressed the conviction that the dialogue on this issue would continue to make progress. He stated that Mongolia would host an event in 2015 in this regard.

4. Mongolia took part in the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons from 22 April to 3 May 2013 and submitted a working paper (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.22), which provided information about the signing of the two parallel declarations of 17 September 2012.

5. On 26 September 2013, the President of Mongolia attended the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. He stated that, in line with a vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world, over 20 years ago Mongolia had declared itself a single-State nuclear-weapon-free zone and had been working hard to institutionalize that status.

6. On 27 September 2013, in his address to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, the President emphasized that the joint declaration of the five nuclear-weapon States had ensured that Mongolia would not be used as a pawn in any future nuclear plans or strategies and that this constituted Mongolia's contribution to greater confidence and stability in the region.

7. During the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, Mongolia consulted with the five nuclear-weapon States on its proposal to reflect, in a resolution of the General Assembly, the essence of the joint declaration. In March 2014, Mongolia presented an aide-memoire to the five nuclear-weapon States, in which it proposed that the issue be addressed prior to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. In May 2014, on the margins of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Mongolia met with the five nuclear-weapon States to exchange views on the issue. They agreed to revert to this issue during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

8. In April 2014, Mongolia submitted to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) its second report on the implementation of the resolution (S/AC.44/2014/4) and to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1718 (2006) its second report on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013) (S/AC.49/2014/5).

9. On 28 and 29 April 2014, Mongolia hosted a workshop on national implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, co-organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the implementation support unit of the Biological Weapons Convention. In discussing issues relating to weapons of mass destruction, Mongolia underlined the importance of further disseminating information on its nuclear-weapon-free status, including the parallel declarations of 17 September 2012.

B. Recognition of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status at bilateral and multilateral meetings

10. The final document of the sixteenth summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Tehran, from 26 to 31 August 2012, expressed support for Mongolia's policy of institutionalizing its nuclear-weapon-free status and for the measures it had taken to consolidate and strengthen that status. In this regard the Heads of State and Government welcomed the start of talks between Mongolia and the nuclear-weapon States aimed at concluding an international instrument institutionalizing that status.

11. Mongolia co-chaired the second preparatory meeting of the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, held in Geneva on 26 April 2013 and participated in the third preparatory meeting, held in New York on 7 May 2014.

12. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons submitted working papers entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free zones" (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.20 and NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.14) at the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In those papers, the Group stated that it considered that the further institutionalization of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status would be an important step towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime in that region.

13. In October 2013, the World Future Council, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office for Disarmament Affairs announced that Mongolia's law on its nuclear-weapon-free status (2000) had won an honourable mention for the World Future Council Future Policy Award 2013 on disarmament.

14. The 17th mid-term ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Algiers on 28 and 29 May 2014, expressed support for Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and its policy aimed at institutionalizing that status.

15. The declaration of the fourth summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, held in Shanghai on 21 May 2014, welcomed the declarations of 17 September 2012 by Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States as a concrete contribution to non-proliferation and the enhancement of confidence and predictability in the region.

C. Normative consolidation and implementation of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status

16. On 14 September 2012, Mongolia organized a national conference to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of declaring its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The conference was attended by members of parliament, government officials, researchers and representatives of non-governmental organizations to take stock of their past activities and future efforts to institutionalize Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status.

17. In January 2014, the standing committee on security and foreign policy of the parliament of Mongolia set up a working group to monitor and evaluate the

implementation of the law on Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and of parliamentary resolution 19 on measures to be taken in connection with the adoption of the law and other relevant legal acts. The working group submitted the following recommendations requesting the Government to:

(a) Cooperate with the five nuclear-weapon States, States parties to treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones and other States and international organizations to strengthen further Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status;

(b) Consider possible amendments to the law of Mongolia on its nuclear-weapon-free status and, if deemed necessary, submit the necessary proposals to the parliament;

(c) Report to the standing committee on implementation by Mongolian flag vessels of the implementation of the law on nuclear-weapon-free status, of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and of other legal commitments undertaken regarding international shipping security rules;

(d) Support the five-point nuclear disarmament proposal of the Secretary-General of 24 October 2008, in particular his proposal to undertake negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament, especially negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention;

(e) Support placement of all non-military facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

18. In 2013 and 2014, a Mongolian non-governmental organization, Blue Banner, organized national round-table discussions to contribute ideas on ways and means of further institutionalizing Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and presented its conclusions to the Government for its consideration.

III. Non-nuclear aspects of Mongolia's international security

19. The non-nuclear aspects of security constitute an important integral part of Mongolia's national policies aimed at strengthening its national security, primarily by political means, through broad cooperation based on its comparative advantage and its integration into regional cooperation mechanisms. The national security concept of Mongolia stipulates that national security shall be assured through the interrelationship between the "security of the existence of Mongolia", "economic security", "internal security", "human security", "environmental security" and "information security".

A. Economic security

20. The basic precondition for achieving and maintaining the economic security of Mongolia is the design and adoption of a sustainable development model that ensures economic independence and an environment for promoting human security and peaceful development.

21. Mongolia is currently one of the fastest growing economies in the world, with the growth in gross domestic product reaching 11.7 per cent in 2013. The country is benefiting from a booming mining industry, which is still far from realizing its full

potential, and the Government has stated its strong ambitions to use that wealth to improve the infrastructure and foster growth across different sectors, ultimately contributing to improving the lives of its people. However, the dependence of its economy on mining revenues exposes the country to commodity price volatility. The economy remains one-sided and fragile, heavily dependent on the import of oil and some consumer goods, while raw materials make up the largest proportion of its exports.

22. As a landlocked country, Mongolia is physically remote from world markets beyond its two immediate neighbours. The prevention of risks and threats associated with growth requires concerted actions on the part of all stakeholders. To that end, a series of discussions have been held over the past two years at the national level. On 16 October 2012, the Institute of Strategic Studies organized a scientific conference on the theme "Evaluation of the economic security of Mongolia". The conference focused on defining the criteria for evaluation and finding ways of dealing with the risks and threats faced by the economy. The Mongolia Economic Forum, an independent, non-governmental organization committed to improving and creating a common concept to accelerate the development of Mongolia, held its fourth and fifth forums on 4 and 5 March 2013 and 24 and 25 March 2014 respectively, to discuss, among other things, issues related to the economic security of the country.

23. The World Economic Forum strategic dialogue on the future of Mongolia was successfully organized in Ulaanbaatar on 14 and 15 September 2013. It provided an unparalleled opportunity to bring together representatives of the Government and other leading domestic and international stakeholders to explore viable economic development pathways. The meeting formed an essential part of the World Economic Forum project "Scenarios for Mongolia", the outcomes of which were presented at the annual meeting of the Forum in Davos-Klosters in January 2014.

B. Human security

24. The national security concept of Mongolia identifies human security as one of the fundamental pillars of national security. Creating a healthy and safe living environment for people, ensuring food security, guaranteeing security of residence and the living environment and protecting people from crime and assault are defined as the basis for ensuring human security.

25. Over recent years, Mongolia has continued its cooperation with the international organizations in implementing specific projects and programmes aimed at meeting the human security challenges. Thus, with the assistance of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and in cooperation with UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Health Organization, it has successfully implemented a project on promoting social equality in the Gobi areas of south Mongolia by fostering human security through integrated and preventive approaches (2010-2013). To respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, the project supported an integrated package of coordinated interventions in the health, education, water, sanitation and economic sectors.

26. Food security remains an important issue in Mongolia, not only due to the negative impacts of global climate change and environmental degradation, but also because of its own specific handicaps. In 2011, with the support and assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the

Government adopted a national programme on food security and started to implement it. At present, over 20 programmes and projects aimed at promoting food supply and ensuring food safety and security are being implemented at the national and branch levels.

27. Combating human trafficking is becoming one of the challenges facing Mongolia, where it is relatively a new phenomenon. The Government is taking legal, administrative and other necessary measures to combat this non-traditional challenge and to raise public awareness of human trafficking in partnership with, and with the support of, non-governmental organizations. In January 2012, the parliament adopted a law on combating trafficking in persons, a milestone in the anti-trafficking efforts of the country and the culmination of more than three years of intense advocacy by civil society organizations. Two years later, in January 2014, a new law on victim and witness protection, passed by the parliament in 2013, entered into force. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice, a newly established national sub-council on combating trafficking in persons, comprising ministries, government agencies and civil society organizations, coordinates the efforts to prevent and combat trafficking.

C. Environmental security

28. Between 2008 and 2012, research was undertaken to identify gaps, conflicts and overlaps in the environmental legislation. As a result, amendments were made to 18 existing laws and two new laws were adopted. At present 27 laws and over 27 national programmes on nature and environment related issues are being implemented in the country.

29. In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, a team of national experts was assigned to review progress on Mongolia's Agenda 21 for sustainable development. They looked at what had been achieved, which gaps remained and the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development. A report entitled "Mongolia's sustainable development agenda: progress, bottlenecks and a vision for the future" was prepared and published in 2012 with the financial support of UNDP.

30. In June 2013, Mongolia successfully hosted World Environment Day, involving dozens of important events, including the organization of a national forum on green development and a series of discussions on governance and transparency in mining, renewable energy, and NGO involvement in nature protection activities.

31. The Ministry of Environment and Green Development proclaimed 2013 as the year to promote environment education and much has been done to promote understanding of the country's green agenda.

32. To respond more effectively to environmental challenges, the Government has established a new core Ministry of Environment and Green Development. This indicates the importance that the country attaches to environmental issues and its readiness to accept a sustainable development model and a low-carbon economy. As such, the Ministry, with UNDP support, has been working to develop a national green development strategy and a corresponding action programme.

33. A workshop on the theme of "Green economic modelling and system dynamics capacity-building for the T21 model of Mongolia" was organized in Ulaanbaatar on

22 May 2014 in cooperation with UNEP and UNDP. The "Green economy — T21 Mongolia model" will be fully developed by the end of 2014.

D. Information security

34. Following the adoption of the national programme on ensuring information security for the period 2010-2015, in 2010, a series of measures were undertaken at the national level. Thus, in 2011 the Government adopted resolution 312 on measures to ensure State information security. On 2 March 2012, the State Communication Department was reorganized into the Cyber Security Department within the General Intelligence Agency.

35. A training seminar entitled "Information security 2013" was organized on 13 August 2013 by the National Security Council in cooperation with the relevant government and private information and communication agencies. The seminar adopted concrete recommendations on measures to be undertaken by the State, the Government and the information and communication agencies. Emphasis has been laid on further improving citizens' knowledge of information security, establishing the national coordination centre for information security and facilitating the process of creating the necessary legal environment for ensuring information and communication security.

36. The drafting process is currently under way on a law on cyber security. A working group was established to that end within the General Intelligence Agency. It is expected that the draft law will be submitted to the parliament in 2014.

37. From 26 to 28 May 2014, in Ulaanbaatar, the fifth Asia-Pacific Telecommunity cyber security forum, organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, was hosted by the national Information Technology, Post and Telecommunication Authority. The objective of the forum was to bring together stakeholders responsible for cyber security systems in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance regional collaborative efforts in combating cybercrime and improving cyber security, countering spam activities and other threats. The forum was attended by participants from 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, who shared information on practical experiences, knowledge and expertise on cyber security, including public awareness. The participants also expressed their willingness to help with the implementation of the project on providing security of information that was launched by the Information Technology, Post and Telecommunication Authority.

E. Regional security

38. Recognizing the need for peace and stability in North-East Asia for national security, the President proposed a dialogue on North-East Asian security in April 2013. The initiative aims to reduce mistrust through informal talks on such issues as economic cooperation, environmental issues, non-traditional security threats and regional stability. During his address to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, the President invited other States of the region to join in the dialogue and to open a discussion to address issues of common interest, including security.

39. In order to promote regional peace and security, Mongolia has annually hosted a multinational peacekeeping exercise, Khaan Quest, in cooperation with the United

States. The goal of the exercise is to bring together representatives of more than a dozen national armed forces around the world to share best practices and interoperability for multinational peacekeeping operations. The Khaan Quest exercise was held from 20 June to 1 July 2014 and hosted nearly 1,000 military personnel, participants and observers from 23 different countries.

IV. Assistance provided by United Nations entities

40. The following section is based on information received to date from the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, UNDP, UNEP and IAEA concerning their respective assistance activities during the reporting period. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that it would not be providing an update on its previous input to the report of the Secretary-General.

A. Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

41. As a landlocked developing country, Mongolia's economy continues to be heavily influenced by its neighbours and therefore extremely vulnerable to their economic performance. Mongolia sources 95 per cent of its petroleum products and a substantial amount of electric power from the Russian Federation. Trade with China represents more than 50 per cent of its external trade, with China receiving more than three quarters of Mongolian exports. As a landlocked country, Mongolia and other landlocked developing countries need to look beyond their immediate neighbours and diversify their sources and destinations of imports and exports. Greater engagement in regional knowledge and experience will be critical.

42. In that context, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States has continued its support to the Government of Mongolia in three main areas: (a) advocacy and raising awareness for international support to Mongolia on issues related to international trade and trade facilitation; (b) the establishment and operationalization of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in Mongolia; and (c) policy dialogue on key economic issues.

43. **International trade and trade facilitation**. With the collaboration of Office of the High Representative and the interim secretariat of the International Think Tank, Mongolia organized a high-level international workshop on the implications for landlocked developing countries of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation on 2 and 3 June 2014 in Ulaanbaatar. The objective of the meeting was to review the progress made in improving trade facilitation in landlocked developing countries; substantively assess the Trade Facilitation Agreement and its implications for landlocked developing countries; equip participants with the necessary knowledge to take advantage effectively of the trade facilitation provisions available to them; and provide policy recommendations that would form substantive inputs to the preparations for the Comprehensive 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The meeting made several recommendations on the promotion of trade and trade

facilitation, the operationalization of the Think Tank and harmonization of the legal framework.

44. **International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries**. The Office of the High Representative continues to provide substantive support to the operationalization of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries based in Ulaanbaatar. The Think Tank will provide a centre of excellence for high-quality research and policy advice and will contribute to further strengthening the analytical capacities of landlocked developing countries and fully harnessing the potential of trade as an engine of sustained economic growth and development. The Office of the High Representative continues to advocate the quick ratification of the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries and to facilitate partnerships between the interim secretariat and development partners, international institutions and other think tanks around the world.

45. **Policy dialogue**. The Office of the High Representative also pursues policy dialogue with Mongolia in the key areas of trade and transit policy formulation, trade and transit negotiations and trade and transport facilitation, climate change, food security and other development challenges by promoting international support, South-South, regional and subregional dialogue and cooperation and knowledge-sharing.

B. United Nations Development Programme

46. The UNDP Mongolia country programme for the period 2012-2016, approved in 2011, is aligned to three thematic areas based on national priorities: (a) poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (b) democratic governance and (c) environment and sustainable development. Through its country programme, UNDP Mongolia supports the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/70 in three key ways, by focusing on economic development, sustainable development and disaster preparedness.

47. **Strengthening economic security**. To promote inclusive growth and build resilience, UNDP supports Mongolia in strengthening economic security at both the national and community levels. Those interventions aim to support the capacity of the Government to address disparities, vulnerabilities and persistent poverty through evidence-based policymaking, planning and monitoring.

48. With UNDP support over the years, widespread awareness of the Millennium Development Goals and the concept of human development has been created among policymakers and civil society and the Goals have been integrated into national policies and plans. UNDP supports the Government in poverty mapping, strengthening its capacity for data analysis and the development of an integrated macroeconomic model to enhance the capacity of the Government in evidence-based policymaking.

49. UNDP is also supporting the efforts of the Government to improve the alignment between short-term (annual) budget planning and mid- and longer-term development objectives through the development of planning guidelines and strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation framework. Innovative concepts, such as microinsurance and loan guarantee schemes, contributing to the

strengthening of social protection mechanisms, have already been introduced, with support from UNDP.

50. UNDP will also continue to support Mongolia in its global and regional cooperation initiatives such as the operationalization of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries and the Greater Tumen Initiative, the technical cooperation initiative between China, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation aimed at strengthening economic and technical cooperation and attaining greater growth and sustainable development in the region.

51. **Ecological balance and long-term sustainable development**. UNDP supports Mongolia in a range of environmental programmes aimed at maintaining the ecological balance and fostering long-term sustainable development.

52. UNDP has supported the development of national and local capacity for: the sustainable use of land, water and forest resources; environmental governance; access to priority environmental services and policy coordination; and monitoring of policies and legislation for implementation of international conventions.

53. Mongolia has reformed a number of environmental laws with UNDP support. With technical assistance provided by UNDP, the Government has also enhanced its ability to monitor compliance with environmental regulations.

54. UNDP is also supporting landscape-level planning to ensure the sustainable management of pastureland, water and forest resources and the conservation of biodiversity.

55. In the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation, UNDP supports the Government in the implementation of national action programmes for climate change and combating desertification, the development of nationally appropriate mitigation actions and developing the capacity of the nascent Climate Change Coordination Authority. In its work, UNDP prioritizes the demonstration of proven adaptation measures to maintain ecosystem functionality and minimize the vulnerabilities of local communities.

56. In biodiversity conservation, UNDP is supporting the Government in the sustainable management of protected areas with managed resources and self-sustaining financing options for those areas.

57. In addition, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and other development partners, UNDP is supporting the capacity of State and non-State actors to deliver safe drinking water and improved sanitation services.

58. **Disaster risk management**. Directly linked to national security planning, UNDP has for some time supported the Government of Mongolia in the area of disaster risk management.

59. Much of the initial focus of the UNDP disaster risk management support was on improving national capacities for emergency response and on the formulation of the national programme on disaster prevention and the national climate risk management strategy.

60. UNDP is currently working to facilitate decentralized disaster risk management. It does so by supporting the development of subnational mechanisms for prevention, preparedness and response and tailoring them to urban and rural settings. The goal is to reduce the risks and consequences of natural and man-made

disasters at the national and community levels, while improving the resilience of ecosystems and vulnerable populations facing climate change.

61. **Democratic governance and human rights**. In the area of democratic governance and human rights, UNDP supports the Government and non-government actors in a number of projects.

62. It is supporting the capacity-building of local elected representatives, including offering induction training to over 7,000 elected representatives in their core competencies.

63. It is also supporting the parliament in a study of the constitution; improving legislative drafting processes; increasing the capacity for public consultation and policy analysis; and developing the capacity to fight corruption.

64. UNDP also provides support to the national human rights commission of Mongolia in improving its monitoring and reporting on emerging human rights issues, such as the impact of red tape and of mining on human rights and the human rights of people with disabilities and of sexual minorities.

C. United Nations Environment Programme

65. The United Nations Environment Programme has continued to promote the ecological balance in Mongolia by providing technical assistance to, and working with, relevant stakeholder groups that are active in the environmental dimension of sustainable development. On the occasion of the celebration of World Environment Day, held on 5 June 2013 in Ulaanbaatar, UNEP announced that Mongolia was one of the first countries receiving assistance through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, an inter-agency mechanism initiated as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to help countries make the transition to a green economy. The Government of Mongolia, led by the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Environment and Green Development, with support from UNEP, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research has started a green economy modelling exercise, which covers energy, mining, urban development, agriculture and natural resource management. The results from the modelling during the initial phase of the Partnership (2013-2014) will be one of the key inputs for determining the investment required for the implementation of the national green development strategy.

66. UNEP has also provided technical assistance and financial support to Mongolia to develop its draft strategy for green development and a scoping paper on the green economy and sustainable consumption and production. Mongolia is one of the countries where UNEP is implementing the SWITCH-Asia regional policy support programme to strengthen the formulation and implementation of policies related to sustainable consumption and production in Asia. Mongolia is participating in particular in the preliminary assessment of capacity-building and policy needs in this area and related regional and subregional capacity-building activities.

67. Through one of its collaborating centres, GRID-Arendal in Norway, UNEP has supported a project to combat climate change by enhancing the resilience of pastoral ecosystems and livelihoods. The project is aimed at assessing the impact of change of land use and climate change on nomadic pastoralists and on their options and

opportunities for adaptation, focusing on taiga reindeer- and yak-herding in Mongolia and the Russian Federation. The project also seeks to increase the resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change of nomadic communities, while building partnerships between reindeer- and yak-herding communities, strengthening local institutions and increasing the capacity of nomadic herders to engage in land use and natural resource management.

68. Other UNEP activities in relation to climate change include supporting Mongolia in preparing the country's third national communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will include information on the impact of climate change and the vulnerability of the country, greenhouse gas emissions and potential mitigation options. Mongolia is a member of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in Developing Countries. Jointly implemented by FAO, UNDP and UNEP, the programme supports national readiness in Mongolia for the transformative strategies and finance approaches for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, known as REDD-plus, including the preparation of a national REDD-plus readiness road map, which is expected to be finalized in June 2014. It is very likely that a programme on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, worth $4 million over three years, will start at the end of 2014.

69. On a related matter, the Government inaugurated a 15-megawatt capacity wind farm on Salhit Mountain, Tuv Province, in June 2013 on the occasion of the celebration of World Environment Day. Mongolia is known to have vast potential for wind power, with good-to-excellent wind resources equivalent to 1,113,300 MW of electric potential. Electricity generation from wind turbines constitutes about 10 per cent of the total electricity generated through renewable energy sources.

70. Through the Poverty-Environment Initiative, a joint initiative between UNDP and UNEP, UNEP is supporting a project entitled "Strengthened government capacity for national development policy and planning" in Mongolia. The project is expected to contribute to greening the planning and budgeting processes through mainstreaming effective natural resource management and reduced vulnerability to climate change in those processes at national and subnational levels and building partnerships for ongoing support to the country including the Partnership for Action on Green Economy.

71. UNEP has provided substantial support to Mongolia through the regional ozone compliance assistance programme. Mongolia is in full compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and has been implementing an institutional strengthening project since October 1996 and a project on plans to manage phasing out hydrochlorofluorocarbons since April 2011. Some of the activities under the project include improvement of the legislative framework; training customs officers in monitoring, control and identification of hydrochlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbon-based equipment; provision of training materials and identification tool kits; training for refrigeration technicians in improvement of good practices to reduce leakage and additional tools for technicians; awareness-raising activities; and project coordination and monitoring.

D. International Atomic Energy Agency

72. During the reporting period, IAEA continued to support Mongolia in meeting its safeguard obligations and non-proliferation commitments by assisting it to maintain an effective State system of accounting for, and control of, nuclear material.

73. In September 2012, the IAEA Department of Safeguards provided input to a seminar on nuclear energy and non-proliferation, which was hosted by the Government in cooperation with the Japan Atomic Energy Agency. In particular, the Department of Safeguards contributed to sessions on safeguards in the development of the State system of accounting for and control of nuclear material. In addition, representatives of Mongolia continued to attend IAEA training sessions. In this context, one representative from Mongolia took part in a workshop on nuclear security and safeguards organized by the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia, which was held in Hanoi from 18 to 20 December 2012.

74. The IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety and Security worked with the Nuclear Energy Agency of Mongolia on development of an integrated nuclear security support plan to assist Mongolia in applying a structured and holistic approach to capacity-building for nuclear security and enabling increased coordination between the Agency, the State and potential donors. The plan covers all aspects of nuclear security, including the development of human resources, the capability to detect unauthorized movement of nuclear materials at the border and the security of radioactive sources. In collaboration with IAEA, the Nuclear Energy Agency hosted a meeting in 2013 to facilitate the development of the plan, which was finalized at a meeting held from 23 to 25 July 2013.

75. In September 2013, on the margins of the IAEA General Conference, Mongolia celebrated its fortieth anniversary as a Member State of the Agency. The event included a detailed presentation of the benefits Mongolia had gained from nuclear technology and the technical cooperation support it had received from IAEA. Since 1973, Mongolia has received continuous assistance from IAEA in the form of training courses, expert advice and the procurement of equipment worth over $13 million. Over the past 40 years, Mongolia has taken part in approximately 60 national projects and numerous regional technical cooperation projects focused on agriculture, including enhancing livestock health and improving crop yield, and addressing health challenges with radiotherapy and nuclear medicine. Other projects have covered areas such as nuclear and radiation safety, nuclear science, energy planning and mining.

76. In 2014, the Mongolian authorities alerted IAEA about outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in the country. In order to support the national drive to combat the disease and protect the livelihoods of farmers, the Agency provided assistance through its technical cooperation programme. An expert mission to Mongolia was undertaken from 7 to 11 April 2014 to assess the situation and advise the authorities on urgent actions to contain the outbreaks of the disease and on the medium- to long-term actions that were necessary to prevent it reoccurring in the affected areas and to support vaccine production and formulation activities. In addition, a pilot facility to produce experimental irradiated vaccines is being established.

V. Conclusion

77. As described above, on 17 September 2012, with the parallel declarations by Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States regarding Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, a major milestone was achieved. That status continues to be consolidated and institutionalized and has gained wide recognition.

78. Furthermore, various United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes have provided assistance to Mongolia in addressing the developmental, ecological, economic, humanitarian and human security aspects of its international security.

79. The Secretary-General hopes that the assistance provided by the United Nations will further contribute to consolidating Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and achieving sustainable development and balanced growth, as well as reinforcing its efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.